

Making Great Communities Happen



Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

H.B. 6595 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES PLAN

SUMMARY

H.B. 6595 would amend CGS §16a-27 to revise the due date for revision of the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan and §16-28 and §16-29 to correspondingly revise the schedule for review, public hearing and adoption of the Plan. The bill would also revise the date by which municipalities must have a plan that has been updated within the previous ten years, or be potentially ineligible for discretionary state funding.

ANALYSIS

CCAPA has worked closely with the OPM Office of Responsible Growth since its creation, and in fact strongly supported the concept of a central State office to coordinate planning in the State. We have most recently coordinated a working group to help identify improvements to the coordination of regulatory and funding decisions by State agencies as pertains to infrastructure improvements, most notable Clean Water Act funding for sewer extensions.

We have also communicated with ORG concerning the need for improving planning consistency among State, regional, and local planning projects. A critical step in assuring such consistency is obtaining accurate and current data and information to support planning analyses. We understand ORG's need for additional time to collect necessary information for the next Plan revision, and many CCAPA members are working on providing this information.

We agree that an extension to the due date for the next State Conservation and Development Policies Plan is necessary to ensure that adequate data and analysis is available to the State's planners. Since municipalities and regional planning organizations are obligated to produce plans that are consistent with the State Plan, it is necessary to also extend the deadline for towns to have a plan in place in accordance with §8-23, as revised by P.A. 07-239.

CCAPA POSITION

CCAPA strongly supports H.B 6595 and encourages the Committee to report favorably on this bill. CCAPA is available to assist the Committee with this and any other legislation related to planning and municipal management.